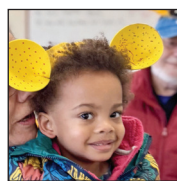




Services Coordinator, p.9



Artful Afternoon, p.16

Senior Condos Break Ground Downhill from the Armory

by Cathie Meetre

With the first crocuses of spring come the first bulldozers. Long-preserved, a 55+ senior housing and handicapped-accessible facility has broken ground on Greenbelt Road, a 4.5-acre parcel



Artist's rendition of 55+ housing under construction on Greenbelt Road near the Armory

PHOTO COURTESY ARMORY PLACE, LLC

boxed by the Armory, University Square Apartments and Lakecrest Drive. The lot is now piled with cut-down trees and laid out to admit the phalanx of heavy equipment arriving at the site, exposing the sides of University Square buildings that can now be seen from Greenbelt Road. With giant concrete rings stacked at the ready and tidy piles of brush, the site appears workmanlike and bustling. The assigned builder is NVR, owner of the Ryan Homes construction company, which has built similar properties in the area.

History

The site has been owned by Armory Place, LLC of Rockville since 2005. They purchased the site of a former nursing home

facility, the Greenbelt Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, which was permanently shut down by the State of Maryland around 1998. The facility fell further into disrepair, eventually being razed by Armory Place at the city's request. Since then, the site has been overgrown, buffering University Square from Greenbelt Road, with the original building all but forgotten.

Siting

Four buildings will be constructed. The front of the two buildings planned to face Greenbelt Road is set back to meet county and city requirements for noise abatement – just behind the required “noise contours” of

See **CONDOS**, page 12

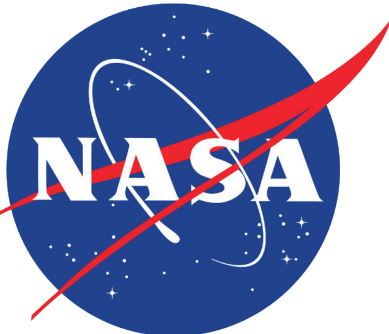
DOGE Members Roam NASA HQ As Another Agency Braces for RIF

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

According to Census Bureau data, Greenbelt is home to over 1,350 federal workers. That's estimated to be over 14 percent of residents, according to 2023 data. In addition to those civil servants, a lot of residents are government contractors. Many of those work at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), considered to be in Greenbelt. The campus has a Greenbelt address but sits just outside the incorporated city limits. NASA has seen Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) staff at their headquarters (HQ) in Washington, D.C., over recent weeks and is preparing for a Reduction in Force (RIF).

Cuts to SMD

“The last two weeks at NASA HQ was just consumed with a parade of reporting requests to justify and re-justify and justify again NASA grants and contracts. The most recent request, by far the most demanding to date, arrived Thursday [March 13] and is focused on grants specifically to academic institutions,” one



Greenbelter who works at NASA headquarters told the News Review. “The Science Mission Directorate (SMD) has been asked to plan for a 60 percent budget reduction,” said the source. SMD accomplishes its work through nationwide grants and contracts to a variety of institutions, the source shared, though they believe the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Langley Research Center, Ames Research Center and, importantly for Greenbelt, GSFC would bear the brunt of such cuts. Reports say the SMD budget is slated to be cut by “up to 50 percent” and have been published by multiple news organiza-

tions, though the White House's plans have not yet been publicly released nor that figure confirmed by the Trump administration.

Impending RIF

On February 26, the federal Office of Personnel Management (OPM) issued a memo to

See **NASA**, page 6

What Goes On

Monday, March 24

7:30 p.m., City Council Meeting: FY 2026 Budget Presentation, Municipal Building

Wednesday, March 26

7:30 p.m., Council Budget Worksession: Overview, Revenues & General Government/Other Funds/Non-Departmental & Fund Transfers/Economic Development, Municipal Building

See the city ad on page 5 and the meetings calendar at greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

On March 20, 1995, Julie Ferguson, a bright, smart, ambitious junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, was kidnapped, killed and found on the side of the road in Glenn Dale. Many assumed the killer would be found and justice would be done for this tragic, sorrowful crime. But after 30 years, no one has been indicted.

Ferguson's close friend Julie Epstein described her as light-hearted and recalled a comical misadventure, now a treasured memory. While trying to protect their must-have pristine Reebok Classics by covering their feet with shopping bags, the two Julies slid down a muddy hill and fell on their faces.

Remembered as a light that brightened shadowed rooms, Ferguson was full of promise, with avid interests including learning German and playing the flute. She worked part-time at Linens 'N Things in Greenway Center, only a quarter mile from her home, but her mother preferred that she ride home with a family member or friend. On the day she disappeared, she was waiting outside the store at around 9:30 p.m., but when her friends arrived around 10, Julie was nowhere to be found; only her purse and a Coke remained. Her



PHOTO COURTESY RAIDER REVIEW

Julie Ferguson

urgently worried friends checked with Ferguson's mother, who had not heard from her. They asked the manager of a neighboring liquor store and then called the police. In the following hours, Greenbelt police and U.S. Park Police with helicopters searched the area and Ferguson was confirmed missing.

Her body was found the next

morning in Glenn Dale by a motorist, around four miles away from Greenway Center. An autopsy revealed that her throat had been slit and there was no sign of sexual assault. Detectives speculate that she might have been abducted near the parking lot, based on observations of several eyewitnesses. A red four-door sedan was seen parked near where Julie was sitting and witnesses saw her speak to someone in the car. She reportedly seemed acquainted, and no one saw indications of a struggle. One witness, returning to the location, observed that Ferguson had disappeared.

Advocates continue to keep the story alive and keep in touch with local authorities. Local content creator Jenny Meetre, who had several friends in

See **UNSOLVED**, page 10

Trump Vows to Stop FBI HQ From Coming to Greenbelt

by Diya Shah and Anna Bedford-Dillow

The FBI headquarters relocation to Greenbelt faced a new challenge and potential grinding halt on Friday when President Donald Trump announced his intention to keep the Bureau in downtown Washington, D.C. “We’re going to stop it. I’m not going to let that happen,” said Trump about the move to Greenbelt.

Speaking at the Justice Department, Trump dismissed the relocation effort, falsely claiming the Greenbelt site was “three hours away in Maryland.” He also described Maryland as a liberal

state before insisting its political leanings had no influence on his decision.

Over \$3 billion had already been set aside in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget for acquisition and design of the Greenbelt site under the Biden administration (see the March 20, 2024, issue). For over a year the Maryland State team has been holding monthly coordinating meetings and submeetings have been taking place as necessary – doing, for example, the preparatory work of looking at

See **FBI**, page 12

Franklin Park Fire



PHOTO BY PETE PRINGER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

On the morning of Wednesday, March 19, Greenbelt police officers discovered a fire in Franklin Park. See story on page 15.

Letters to the Editor

Drive with Lights On

Please join me and a growing number of motorists who drive with our lights on – day or night, rain or shine. There are more motor vehicles on our streets than ever before including silent electric ones.

I'm lucky that my car's headlights turn on automatically. But even without that feature, it will become a habit like putting on your seat belt. Try it and see the difference it makes.

With my old car, I would use the yellow parking lights in the daytime (see the note below).

One afternoon about 25 years ago, some of the neighborhood children were playing in the street

near my home. As I slowly approached them, one little boy (Jimmy) stood transfixed staring at the yellow lights on my car. I do not believe that he saw the car at all. But he did see the lights and stopped from running out into my pathway. It was powerful.

(Note: The Maryland Driver's Handbook states, "You should not drive with only parking lights on because parking lights denote a parked car." Oops! Happily, today many vehicles have daytime running lights which are not full-on headlights and help others to see you when your headlights are not called for.)

Jean Lombardo

Greenbelt, a Wonderful Community

by Mark Gordon

My wife and I are newbies here in Greenbelt. We've been here less than two years, so compared to most people we have met and now know, we are definitely still new. We packed up our house, located on the Gulf of Mexico in Florida, turned it over to our realtor and started driving in search of a home with a true community. We drove up to Boston and started to work our way back. We spent five months on the road, trying to locate something between Boston and D.C. There's much more to the story but we found Greenbelt/GHI and we are so thankful. We have met so many wonderful people, we know all of the neighbors in our court and GHI has proven to be a true community. We see neighbors each day, helping neighbors. We have been invited to and have attended many parties, events and meet-ups, we already feel so at home and so at peace being here.

I am amazed at how well the City of Greenbelt and GHI work together. From a newbie it appears to look flawless. As I walk to Roosevelt Center each day for the Fitness Center, the Co-op, the movies, the credit union or hanging out at the New Deal Café, I see how well this community is taken care of. This winter I've watched the snow being cleared so quickly, all the decorations that are put up for each holiday. I've noticed all the new sidewalks being replaced for safety and for disability access. I noticed when a light is out in

an underpass, it gets replaced quickly. I could go on and on, but I see how much pride and care goes into this community, both physically and socially.

All the maintenance workers I have communicated with have been knowledgeable, polite and professional. The events that happen around the year, the Labor Day Festival, the Green Man Festival, all the parades! It's like going back in time to when I was young and the entire neighborhood and community where I lived were involved. Finding GHI in Greenbelt has truly been a blessing in our lives and we are thankful to be home. So thank you to all the hard workers that keep things going and all the wonderful Greenbelters that make this truly a caring community.

News Review Hosts Open House April 12

Current and potential members, friends and families are invited to an Open House at the News Review office on Saturday, April 12 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The News Review hasn't missed an issue since our first issue on November 24, 1937.

Learn how the weekly miracle occurs. Meet the people who make it happen. How do they produce a paper full of stories, photos, letters, cartoons and advertising each week? And how can you get more involved? Come find out!

On Screen at Greenbelt Cinema

Black Bag

A gripping spy drama about legendary intelligence agent George Woodhouse (Michael Fassbender) and his beloved wife Kathryn (Cate Blanchett). When she is suspected of betraying the nation, George faces the ultimate test – loyalty to his marriage or his country.

Eephus

As an imminent construction project looms over their beloved small-town baseball field, a pair of New England Sunday league teams face off for the last time over the course of a day. Tensions flare up and ceremonial laughs are shared as an era of camaraderie and escapism fades into an uncertain future.

Mickey 17

In this film, from acclaimed South Korean director Bong Joon Ho (Parasite, Snowpiercer), Mickey 17 (Robert Pattinson), known as an "expendable," goes on a dangerous journey to colonize an ice planet.

BEFORE MOVING TO GREENBELT.

AFTER MOVING TO GREENBELT.

- Pete Reppert

Greenbelt Cinema
129 Centerway
301-329-2034
www.greenbeltcinema.org

Members Always \$6.50!
Member kids are always FREE!

Adults \$9, Kids \$6,
Senior/Student/Military \$8

All shows before 5 PM:
Adults \$7, Kids \$5

OC = Open Captions
CC = Closed Captions
DVS = Descriptive Video Service

SHOWTIMES:
MARCH 21st - 27th

Black Bag (R) (CC) (DVS)
(2025) (93 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Fri. 5:15 PM, 7:45 PM
Mon. 5:15 PM
Tues. 8:00 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Sat. 5:30 PM, 7:45 PM
Sun. 2:30 PM, 5:00 PM
Mon. 2:45 PM
Wed. 5:50 PM
Thurs. 7:45 PM

Eephus (NR) (CC)
(2025) (99 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 5:15 PM
Sun. 5:10 PM
Mon. 2:30 PM (OC)
Tues. 5:45 PM
Thurs. 8:15 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 8:00 PM
Wed. 8:00 PM

Mickey 17 (R) (CC)
(DVS) (2025) (137 mins)
Screen 1 - Main Auditorium
Sat. 7:30 PM
Sun. 2:15 PM (OC)
Wed. 7:30 PM
Thurs. 5:30 PM

Screen 2 - The Screening Room
Fri. 5:00 PM
Mon. 5:00 PM
Tues. 7:30 PM

Letters Policy

Deadline for letters is 6 p.m. Monday. Submission does not guarantee publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words (shorter letters are more likely to be published).

Letters may be edited for clarity, grammar, civility and space constraints. The News Review may add a comment from the editor if deemed necessary.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address, and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider requests for the name to be withheld.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Mary Lou Williamson, Editor
Anna Bedford-Dillow, Managing Editor

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. Articles/photos over 700 words, Display ads (not camera ready).
- Monday 6 p.m. All letters to the editor (300 word limit).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement.

MAIL SUBSCRIPTION: \$55/year

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday and Tuesday, 2 - 4 p.m.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the Municipal Building.

Obituaries

Harry Fendlay



From left, Beth and Harry Fendlay

Harry Fendlay died peacefully on March 8, 2025, after a six-year battle with Parkinson’s disease. Harry was born on May 25, 1958. His parents, Jane and Lee Fendlay, moved to 9-N Southway in 1950 when Lee accepted a job at the Naval Shipyard. There, they raised Harry along with their other five children. Harry quickly became a court favorite, looking out for the older neighbors in the court and baking them treats.

Harry attended Greenbelt Center School, Mary Bethune Junior High and graduated from Parkdale High School in 1977. As a teenager, he worked as a busboy at the Greenbelt American Legion before eventually becoming a bartender. His welcoming smile, silly jokes and outgoing nature made him a perfect fit for the job.

Harry was fortunate enough to find the love of his life as a teenager when he met Beth Barber. She was shy and he was outgoing and they complemented each other in every way. They were married in 1979 and welcomed two beautiful children, Sarah and Tony, into their family. They purchased their first GHI home at 2 Plateau Place before moving to 19 Ridge Road, where they resided for over 30 years.

City Notes

Constituent Services and CARES hosted 35 local leaders for a program on immigrant rights. Economic Development and Public Information attended a job fair for federal workers and Public Information attended the Citizen’s Police Academy.

With the Animal Shelter under repair, staff answered 55 calls about adoptions, surrenders, spay/neutering, etc.

Environmental/Sustainability and Compost Crew offered a third registration for compost collection. Horticulture/Parks installed four smart trash/recycling bins and repaired the Braden Field storage shed. Streets crews installed solar lights at the Springhill Lake basketball court.

Arts hosted an Art Share and Parent’s Night Out, and Therapeutic Recreation facilitated a Library presentation. Springhill Lake Recreation hosted Learn2Earn and Pre-K Bilingual Storytime.

Park Rangers reported an unresponsive person in the Buddy Attick Park bathroom building; an ambulance arrived in approximately 15 minutes.

During February, CARES counseled 165 individuals and provided various instruction for 59 students. Green Ridge House’s annual workshop helped 15 residents prepare tax forms.

In 1981, Harry began his 32-year career at the U.S. Postal Service and retired in 2013. Harry embraced retired life and loved spending time with their grandson Nolan. He also enjoyed cooking, repurposing yard sale finds and gardening. It was a common occurrence for passersby to stop and admire Harry’s green thumb. He was always happy to engage in conversation, as anyone who shops or works at the Co-op knows. Beth often asked him why he didn’t buy more groceries at one time and make fewer trips. We all suspect he enjoyed the conversations more than the shopping.

Harry was one of those people that you just felt better around. He laughed at his own jokes, loved to share his creativity, always had a smile for you and just made the world a kinder place. His loss will be felt deeply throughout the Greenbelt community. Harry is survived by his wife of 45 years, Beth Fendlay; daughter Sarah (Brian); son Tony (Melissa); grandson Nolan; brothers Lee (Norma), Davey (Laura) and Kevin (Frann); and sister Patty Rousseau (Marty).

Plans for a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.
-- Frann Fendlay

Lively Gatherings Celebrate Purim at Mishkan Torah

by Karen Knee

Mishkan Torah Synagogue celebrated the holiday of Purim with two fun events: a carnival geared toward young children and their families on Sunday, March 9, and reading the Megillah, or Purim story, on the evening of Thursday, March 13. Both events were lively and well attended by members and visitors alike.

Face painting, games, snacks and a costume parade were all enjoyed at the Purim carnival. Led by teacher Yael Fischman, preschool through elementary age kids in the Karp Family School program performed a song telling the Purim story, which deals with a brave queen saving the Jewish people from a villain in ancient Persia. Participants baked hamantaschen (traditional triangular Purim cookies) and assembled goody bags to share with residents at JK House of Grace, an assisted living residence in Silver Spring.

The Megillah reading continued Mishkan Torah’s unique tradition of reading the Purim story not only in the typical Hebrew, but also in as many other languages as possible. This year hit a new record, with over 20 languages, including Afrikaans,

Samoan and Paraguayan Guarani being spoken.

Purim can, in some ways, be considered “the Jewish Halloween.” It is traditional to wear costumes, drink, party and give sweet treats and other gifts to friends, family and those in need.

Karen Knee is the chair of Mishkan Torah’s Children’s Education Committee.



Karen Knee and Maggie Brown at the Megillah reading

PHOTO BY MARC HALL

Our condolences to the family and friends of Harry Fendlay. Harry was a lifelong Greenbelter, known for his outgoing personality and his kindness.

Congratulations to Molly Rubinstein of Green Ridge House, who is bursting with pride because her youngest granddaughter Emily, who wants to become a veterinarian, was admitted to her first-choice college, the University of California at Davis, where she will be majoring in animal science. UC Davis has offered her a full scholarship to attend their school.

Send details of your news to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



“Rise up in such wise, and with such qualities, as to endow the body of this world with a living soul, and to bring this young child, humanity, to the stage of adulthood.”

– ‘Abdu’l-Bahá

Greenbelt Bahá’í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF GREENBELT

Mass Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

COME TO OUR NEW LOCATION

Community Center Room 114

15 Crescent Rd

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Roman Catholic
Intentional Eucharistic
Community

OR - Join us on ZOOM!
For ZOOM link:
CCG1985+owneregroups.io

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open Minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-5410

Pastor Evelyn Romero

Worship Service, Sundays 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Celebrate hope with us.

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11040 Baltimore Avenue, Beltsville, MD 20704

301-937-4292 www.saintjohnsbeltsville.org

Welcomes you each Sunday for
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at 10:00 AM

Greenbelt Community Church

One Hillside Road

We are an
Open and Affirming
Church



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OF CHRIST

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10:15 AM

for Worship
and Church School

www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD
www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

- Daily Mass: Mon-Fri 7:15am*, Sat 9am*
- Sunday Mass:
 - Sat vigil 5pm*
 - Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
- Confessions Saturday 3pm – 4pm.

Masks for the unvaccinated encouraged.

CELEBRATE WITH US

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



We Preach Christ Crucified



(1 COR. 1:18-25)

Holy Cross

Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Rd
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Lenten Services:

Thursdays 7pm
(March 13, 20, 27;
April 3, 10)

The Bible Says...

Lent-Week #2

For all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God
Romans 3:23



Sunday Worship Services

10a-11:15a @ Greenbelt Elementary School
(66 Ridge Rd.)

MCFcc.org

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770

Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue
that respects tradition and becomes your extended family
in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm

Saturday morning services at 10:00am

Offering hybrid services, online and in-person activities

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

Postal address: P.O. Box 676, Laurel, MD 20725

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 3 p.m.

The Message

Diversity/Antiracism Transformation Team (DARTT) Bookread Group
with Lula Beatty, Worship Associate

How do we know the truth? Who are the messengers of truth? Is it you? Through the book, The Message by Ta-Nehisi Coates, we will explore the need for truth-telling in our continuing quest for peace, justice, and democracy and the consequences of letting suppressed truths and false narratives prevail.

Streaming on PBUUC's Facebook page, on Zoom, and in person. Worship service held at University Christian Church, 6800 Adelphi Road, Hyattsville, MD



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING

Monday, March 24 at 7:30 pm

ORGANIZATION

Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Reading of the Greenbelt Community Pledge
Petitions and Requests
Consent Agenda - Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS

Presentations
- **Proposed FY2026 Budget Presentation**
* **Minutes**
Administrative Reports
* **Committee Reports**
* **Advisory Planning Board Report #2025-01: WMATA's 2025 Better Bus Network – P20/P21 Proposed New Stops on Crescent Road**

LEGISLATION

- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 16 of the City of Greenbelt Code to Codify General Orders 675; *1st Reading*
- An Ordinance to Make a Supplemental Appropriation in the Retiree Prescription Subsidy for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, in the Amount of Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$65,000); *1st Reading and Suspension of Rules, 2nd Reading, Adoption*
- A Resolution to Establish School Zone on Municipal Roads in the City to Implement and Automated Stop Sign Enforcement Program Within the Established; *1st Reading*
- An Ordinance to Amend the City of Greenbelt Code to Authorize the Operation of Stop Sign Monitoring Systems in School Zones, Establish Associated Fines and Fees, and Provide for the Enforcement of Violations

OTHER BUSINESS

- Acceptance and Presentation of the FY2024 City Annual Audit
- WMATA's 2025 Better Bus Network – P20/P21 Proposed New Stops on Crescent Road
- Briefing on MWOCG's Updates to Regional Activity Centers in the City of Greenbelt
- Letter to Dr. House and PGcps on Temporary Structures at Historic GMS for Springhill Lake Elementary School Students
- State/County Legislation
- Approval for Authorization to Transition City Retirement Plan Management
- Authorize City Manager to Execute Contract for Master Preservation Plan for Greenbelt's Three Historic Cemeteries
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
* Meetings
* Stakeholders
* Resignation/Appointment to Advisory Board
* Tribesy Phase 2 Audit Report

In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.

This agenda is subject to change. For the most up-to-date agenda, visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipalTV or call (301) 474-8000.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council will conduct a public hearing on the Charter Amendment Resolution of the Council of the City of Greenbelt, to amend §4, "Creation; Qualifications; Compensation" of the City Charter to Raise the Compensation of the City Council.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on this charter resolution on April 28, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Council Room at the Greenbelt Municipal Building located at 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770. Public testimony will be received by the City Council at the hearing on the above date. Written comments may either be presented at this hearing or sent to the City Clerk.

*** The public is welcome to attend. The Charter Resolution is available online and at the Clerk's office. For more information, please contact the City Manager's office at (301) 474-8000.**

Shaniya Lashley-Mullen, Deputy City Clerk

TENANTS RIGHTS TOWN HALL

Thursday, March 27 at 7 pm
Council Chambers, Greenbelt Municipal Building Center, 25 Crescent Road

Hosted by the City of Greenbelt, this meeting will include presentations and resources for tenants. This event is being hosted to ensure that all tenants in Greenbelt are aware of their rights and responsibilities as renters.

Presentations and resources provided by:
City of Greenbelt, Community Legal Services, Maryland Legal Aid, and Prince George's County Department of Housing & Community Development

Email galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov for more information.

COMPOST YOUR FOOD SCRAPS

For 6 months your food scraps can be collected for free to reduce food waste and return valuable compost to Greenbelt. Compost Crew will pick up your food scraps weekly and deliver them to their Compost Outpost at Trinity.

To register, visit <https://compostcrew.com/greenbelt>.

Questions? Luisa Robles: lrobles@greenbeltmd.gov or (240) 542-2153.

MEETINGS FOR MARCH 24-28

Monday, March 24 at 7:30 pm, **FY2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION**

Tuesday, March 25 at 3:30 pm, **SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, *On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes/Agenda, Discussion on Not for Seniors Only Event*

Tuesday, March 25 at 7 pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, *On the Agenda:*

Wednesday, March 26 at 7:30 pm, **BUDGET WORK SESSION - OVERVIEW, REVENUES & GENERAL GOVERNMENT/OTHER FUNDS/NON-DEPARTMENTAL & FUND TRANSFERS/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Thursday, March 27 at 7 pm, **TENANTS RIGHTS TOWN HALL**

Thursday, March 27 at 7 pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, *On the Agenda: Dynamic Governance Review, Stewardship Updates & Discussion, Wayfinding in the Preserve - Possible Scout Project, Mountain Biker Trail Use and Unauthorized Trailwork, Green Man Festival Outreach Exhibit, Federal Policy Changes and the Preserve, FPAB Member Recruitment*

In advance, the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov. This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call (301) 474-8000. For information on public participation for the meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

In the City of Greenbelt, we remain committed to embracing and celebrating the diversity of all. As our nation undergoes change, feelings of pride, uncertainty, and even fear may arise. Yet, we stand firm in the pledge that has defined Greenbelt since its inception and will not falter.

Community Pledge:

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

Learn more at <https://www.greenbeltmd.gov/government/know-your-rights-immigration-resources>.

DONATE TO THE GREENBELT NURSERY PROJECT

Providing support for low-income Greenbelt parents with nursery items. You can help donate by hosting a community drive, through individual donations, or volunteering at our quarterly distribution.

Seeking donations of gentle laundry detergent, laundry detergent pods, basic thermometers, baby/child nail clippers, night lights, and baby proofing products.

Contact Katherine Farzin at (240) 542-2019 or kfarzin@greenbeltmd.gov.

S.A.I.L. WITH GIVES

Senior Avoiding Isolation & Loneliness

The SAIL Program in partner with the GIVES aims to support older adults age 60+ or individuals 50 + who have a disability, to reduce feelings of isolation while working to increase community engagement by broadening their access to vital supports.

SAIL provides friendly, in-person visits or cphone calls, free nursing assessments, community student nursing visits, mental health counseling, case management visits, information and referral of resources, and so much more!

Contact us at (240) 244-6010 or at ngarcia@greenbeltmd.gov.

SAIL is also seeking volunteers who are deeply committed to making a positive impact on society and humanity. Call (240) 244-6010 to volunteer!

WINTER SOCIAL FT. DC HAND DANCE CLUB

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2 PM

Greenbelt Community Center Gym, 15 Crescent Road

Join Greenbelt Recreation and the D.C. Hand Dance Club as we learn a unique style of dance that originated in Washington D.C. in the mid 1950's. The D.C. Hand Dance Club will teach this smooth style of swing evolved from Jitterbug.

All levels are welcome! Contact Priya Gardner Lemieux, (240) 542-2056, pgardner@greenbeltmd.gov, for more information. FREE, no registration required. Events are 60+ (Open to All Ages)

FREE SENIOR PLANET CLASSES - MEDIA & HEALTH FOR ADULTS 60+. FREE. IN-PERSON, 11 AM - 12:15 PM

Greenbelt Community Center, Ground Floor East, 15 Crescent Rd

April 1. Mindfulness Apps
Introducing mindfulness and its physical & mental benefits such as reducing anxiety, improving memory, and lowering blood pressure.

April 15. Messaging Apps
Learn about the most popular messaging apps - iMessages, Google Chat, andWhatsApp - learning how to send texts & pictures, making voice & video calls, and how these apps keep your messages secure.

April 29. Ridesharing Apps
Apps have changed the way people get around! Learn about Uber and Lyft and the pros and cons of both.

May 6. Introduction to AI
Learn basic ideas around artificial intelligence (AI), how it's being used, its limitations, and how it will shape the future.

May 8. AI & Disinformation
Explore how AI is being used to create convincing fakes and clone voices.

May 20. Everyday Uses of AI
Learn how AI is already present in everyday tasks and how its being used across industries so that you can take advantage of the technology.

May 22. Is That AI?
Learn how to differentiate real images versus AI and become a tech savvy internet user by learning to do a reverse image search of images you find online.

These classes are facilitated by Flora Li, Brendy Maddox, and Katherine Farzin. To register, email Kelly Lange at klange@greenbeltmd.gov or call Brendy Maddox at (240) 424-0302.

GREENBELT CITY CALENDAR

Be sure to check out the City calendar for all up to date events at www.greenbeltmd.gov/calendar.



PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY FIRE/EMS SUMMER STAFFING PLAN FOR GREENBELT VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Greenbelt, MD - The City of Greenbelt is disappointed in the County's decision to reassign 24 career personnel from Greenbelt Station 835 on July 1, resulting in the removal of all career personnel from our Station. County Fire Chief Tiffany Green and County leadership ordered the redeployment of 55 career firefighters from Berwyn Heights, Greenbelt, Bunker Hill, and Bowie Station. We are gravely concerned with the impact in response times of emergencies in Greenbelt and our surrounding areas.

Greenbelt will continue to work in tandem with College Park and Berwyn Heights alongside County leadership in addressing our concerns and fighting for the City of Greenbelt.

WHO CAN I CONTACT?

Office of the County Executive
countexecutive@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-4131

Office of the County Fire Chief
tdgreen@co.pg.md.us
(301) 883-5200

At-Large County Council Member Hawkins
At-LargeMemberHawkins@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-2195

County Council Member District 4
councildistrict4@co.pg.md.us
(301) 952-3094

Letters of Support to keep/return career staffing to Greenbelt Station 835 can be sent to:

City of Greenbelt, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 or council@greenbeltmd.gov.

COMMITTEES & BOARDS VACANCIES VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Volunteering for City of Greenbelt Committees & Boards is an excellent opportunity to engage with your community and make a difference. Choose from a number of committees & boards such as the **Advisory Committee on Trees, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, the Youth Advisory Committee, or the Advisory Committee on Education, Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Community Relations Advisory Board, Employee Relations Advisory Board, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, or the Park and Recreation Advisory Board** and make a difference in Greenbelt!

Take the first step towards making a positive impact and apply for one of these committee vacancies today!

Call (301) 474-8000.

GREENBELT WELCOME KITS!

Material Drop-Off

We're looking for materials to add to the City's *Welcome Kits* for new residents and visitors. Please drop-off at the Municipal Building to

Chondria Andrews
25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

NO LATER THAN 4 PM ON APRIL 25

Stuffing Party
Thursday, May 8 at 2 pm
Municipal Building, 25 Crescent Rd

The Public Information Office will be holding a Welcome Kit Stuffing Party to help with packing all of the materials received. Stop by to help starting at 2 pm!

Email candrews@greenbeltmd.gov for more information or assistance.

Pi Day a Success At The SPACE

NASA continued from page 1

On March 14 (3.14), Pi Day, Greenbelters ate pie, made art and met their goal, raising over \$10,000 for their campaign to support The SPACE Free Art for All.

“We love our Greenbelt family!” said Shaymar Higgs, founder and executive director. “There were so many new faces, kiddos running around and neighbors who became friends. The goal is to build a community of people coming together while making art and changing the future for the better. With and for all of us! We look forward to seeing you in

The SPACE.”

The SPACE, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization on the upper level of Beltway Plaza, has programming free of charge almost every day and an open studio daily. Opportunities range from entrepreneurship classes focusing on “where creativity meets business,” “sew, what” sewing classes for all skill levels, gaming nights and “blossom to bloom” yoga and mindfulness sessions weekly. Check out their calendar of events at [freeartforall.org/programs](#) to learn more.



They made pie.

- Photos courtesy The SPACE



They made art.

GNR Abroad

Greenbelt resident Julie Patterson recently flew to San Juan, Puerto Rico, for vacation and to attend her niece’s wedding. She took along the News Review and had a chance to read it while lying on the beach.

PHOTO COURTESY, JULIE PATTERSON

heads of executive departments and agencies outlining guidance on implementing DOGE’s Workforce Optimization Initiative and emphasizing preparations for large-scale RIFs and reorganization plans must be made. Phase 1 plans were to be submitted by March 13, Phase 2 by April 14 with implementation to take place by September 30. NASA responded with the pressing tasks they were currently involved in and essentially said their workforce was too busy to create the plan in time. They received a one-week extension, making their initial deadline March 20. However, RIF planning has been going on behind closed doors at the agency, the News Review was told by a resident who works there. No RIF plans had been available to employees as of Tuesday, nor had the GSFC union GESTA been able to share anything on RIF planning, we are told.

DOGE at NASA

Two Greenbelt sources at NASA’s HQ confirmed the presence of DOGE staff at the site. Riley Sennott, a 26-year-old DOGE employee, who also works with Elon Musk’s company Tesla, has been seen walking the halls of NASA HQ and meeting with NASA leaders there. In addition to information from a Greenbelt source, Sennott’s presence at NASA HQ was recently confirmed when his Google Calendar, tied to a personal email account, was discovered to be public and details were published by Business Insider. Alexander Simonpour is a second DOGE employee, previously of Tesla, said to be at NASA, with intentions to participate in RIF meetings this week, according to our source and to the blog NASA Watch ([nasawatch.com](#)), run by NASA journalist and former employee Keith Cowing.

Use of AI

A NASA worker speaking to the Greenbelt News Review said Sennott has been “combing through NASA systems for several weeks and feeding data into the Grok AI tool.” The work justifications that have been repeatedly demanded are also being fed into that tool, we’re told. Grok AI is a generative artificial intelligence chatbot developed by Elon Musk’s company xAI. It is publicly available for use through an X (formerly Twitter) subscription.

Compliance

Leaders at NASA are said to be “compliant.” In addition to justifying contracts and work, GSFC Director Makenzie Lystrup, who was appointed in 2023, is likely working to fulfill require-

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Terms Flagged by the Trump Administration		
biases	fostering inclusivity	orientation
biases towards	GBV	people + uterus
biologically female	gender	people-centered care
biologically male	gender based	person-centered
BIPOC	gender based violence	person-centered care
Black	gender diversity	polarization
breastfeed + people	gender identity	political
breastfeed + person	gender ideology	social justice
chestfeed + people	gender-affirming care	sociocultural
chestfeed + person	genders	socioeconomic
clean energy	Gulf of Mexico	status
climate crisis	hate speech	stereotype
climate science	health disparity	stereotypes
commercial sex worker	health equity	systemic
community diversity	Hispanic minority	systemically
community equity	historically	they/them
confirmation bias	LGBTQ	trans
cultural competence	marginalize	transgender
cultural differences	marginalized	transsexual
cultural heritage	men who have sex with men	trauma
cultural sensitivity	mental health	traumatic
culturally appropriate	minorities	tribal
culturally responsive	minority	unconscious bias
DEI	most risk	underappreciated
equity	MSM	under privileged
ethnicity	multicultural	underrepresentation
excluded	Mx	underrepresented
exclusion	Native American	underserved
expression	non-binary	undervalued
female	nonbinary	victim
females	oppression	victims
feminism	oppressive	

ments while staving off threats to the Goddard center. According to our source and to a report published in The Hill in January, one of the cost-saving measures suggested by the Trump administration’s NASA agency transition team was closing GSFC and consolidating it with the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Forbidden Words

As with other government agencies, compliance means removing now-forbidden language from contracts, proposals and agency documents. Last week, NASA received a new list of terms (see box) that were to be

removed by March 17. Staff were directed to “thoroughly read” all of their contracts, task orders and statements of work to ensure all DEIA information and terms were scrubbed. Words to look out for are not limited to “diversity” and “inclusion.” Staff were also advised to check for terms like “historically,” “environmental justice” and “socioeconomic.” Among the many new key terms now forbidden are “black,” “clean energy,” “mental health,” “status” and even “orientation,” a term frequently used in aerospace to talk about the direction in which something is pointing.

Another sunset over Greenbelt

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

MARCH 21 THROUGH APRIL 12, 2025
FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS 8 PM
SUNDAYS 2 PM
(FACEMASKS REQUIRED SUNDAY, MARCH 30 FRIDAY, APRIL 11)

TICK, TICK ... BOOM! IS PRESENTED THROUGH SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH MUSIC THEATER INTERNATIONAL (MTI). ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI. [WWW.MTISHOWS.COM](#)

SCAN QR CODE FOR TICKETS OR VISIT [GREENBELTARTSCENTER.ORG](#)

GAC Musical Tells Life Story Of Rent Composer; Director Debuts

by Greg Young

Before Rent, there was Tick, Tick ... Boom! This semi-autobiographical musical by Jonathan Larson, the Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning composer of Rent, is coming to the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC). It is the story of the composer and the sacrifices that he made to achieve his big break in theater. Tick, Tick ... Boom takes one on the playwright/composer's journey that led to Broadway. This musical tells the story of an aspiring composer named Jon, who lives in New York City in 1990. Jon is worried he has made the wrong career choice to be part of the performing arts. Though originally performed as a "rock monologue," after Larson's premature death in 1996 it was reconfigured by David Auburn into a three-actor musical. This is the version presented by GAC, where one actor plays Jon and the other two actors play Michael and Susan, as well as all the other roles in the show. The unique seating at GAC, flanking the stage on three sides, is perfect for the production where each of the three characters play and sing to a side.

McCready Debuts

The director, Columbia local Margo McCready, has been planning this version since 2018. That's right, since graduating from high school and then University of Maryland Baltimore County with a B.A. in theater in 2023. Since then, McCready has taught at Slayton House Camp of the Arts, at Baltimore Center Stage pre-Covid days, and more recently, the Drama Learning Center which included direct-



PHOTO BY MARGO MCCREADY

Margo McCready had been planning to direct Tick, Tick ... Boom! since high school.

ing student performers. In McCready's words, "I have constantly been playing musicals in my head." McCready is working with stage manager Grass Harness, GAC alumni and producer Giuliana Weiss (Man of No Importance) to create a unique experience for the audience that includes lots of singing. McCready has found multi-talented actors for what is her directorial debut of a full play. Having spent recent years directing plays with children, it was time to put all those years of planning Tick, Tick ... Boom! into reality. The selected performers, two of whom McCready knew previously, all have powerful voices. Watching a rehearsal confirmed a superb harmony one would only expect from singers working together for years, not weeks; and McCready has pulled off a "twofer." Besides the original cast of three characters, McCready has three

understudies. Listening to them one hears the same quality of harmony in the blend of voices as that made by the principals. As it turns out each team of actors will give their own performances during the run at GAC. Oh, and the acting is also well executed with much creative zeal. **Off-Broadway Success** This revised version of the piece premiered Off-Broadway at the Jane Street Theater in 2001. The production received numerous nominations in several categories and won the Outstanding Off-Broadway Musical at the Outer Critics Circle Awards in 2002. Since then, it has played all over the world, from Europe to Australia, South America and Asia, and as recently as last year at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. **GAC Run** Tick, Tick ... Boom! opens Friday, March 21 with performances on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April. On Sunday, March 30 and Friday, April 11 all supporting personnel and audience members are required to wear masks so those who are immunocompromised have an opportunity to see the show. Content warnings: recreational drug use, discussion of mortality and death, terminal illness, sexual content, mature language. Tickets are required. For more information go to greenbeltartscenter.org.



New State Partnership Expands Support for Federal Workers

Through Work for America's Civic Match talent matching platform and targeted recruitment, (workforamerica.org/civic match), experienced federal workers and public servants will now have a more targeted connection to state and local government jobs. Work for America is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping state and local governments recruit, retain and empower the next wave of public servants. Through programs like Civic Match, state and local governments can increase their capacity to recruit, hire and retain dedicated talent. Maryland is the first Work for America Spotlight State, which will prioritize Maryland's state labor force as a premier option for vetted candidates who want to continue their careers in public service. Through the new partnership, the State of Maryland will post jobs on the Civic Match portal. The State will also assist Maryland counties in partnering with Civic Match to connect federal workers to additional opportunities on the local level. To take advantage of the specialized talent match platform, job seekers –

including federal public servants and federal agency contractors – are encouraged to complete a Civic Match candidate application, accessible at the Apply Here button on the website homepage. During Governor Wes Moore's first tele-town hall, with over 5,000 Marylanders listening in, the governor continued to reinforce the administration's commitment to federal workers and to highlight efforts to make resources available for them, including: – expanding the Maryland Public Servants Resource website to include the Live Work Maryland Job Search to highlight nearly 130,000 job openings in high demand industries; – enhancing Maryland's Unified Benefits Screener to guide Marylanders toward available supports; and programs to support veterans, who make up approximately 15 percent of all federal workers in Maryland; – launching a new resource page on Teach Maryland to support federal workers interested in starting a second career with Maryland's public schools;

– launching the Joining Team Maryland virtual information session for federal workers who want to continue their public service careers through state government; and – partnering with county and local leaders to connect federal workers with recruitment events and job fairs in their communities.

Information in this article is drawn from a press release from the Office of Maryland's Governor Wes Moore.



Explore the History, Culture, Arts and Nature of Prince George's County!
Curated routes and trail maps: anacostiatrails.org

Women's History Month

How I Got Over Screens In Reel & Meal Monday

by Daniel M. Thies

On Monday, March 24, the Reel & Meal at the New Deal Café will host a free screening of How I Got Over – Putting the Homeless Crisis Center Stage. This documentary focuses on 15 formerly homeless and incarcerated Black women from Washington, D.C., as they grapple with their traumas through arts therapy and transform their experiences into a sold-out performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Following the free film screening, Deb Gottesman, co-founder/co-director of The Theatre Lab, will lead a discussion about the film, the work of the Life Stories Program and the need to amplify the voices of the underserved and underrepresented parts of our community. Although the documentary is in its 10-year anniversary, the film continues to speak to where we find ourselves today. Interviews and snapshots of the group's therapy and practice sessions reveal the conditions that led to the lowest points in these women's lives. Unfortunately, many gaps in the social safety net still remain. The Department of Housing and Urban Development ranks Washington, D.C., as having the

second highest rate in homelessness in the United States, at 80 per 10,000 residents (Hawaii has 80.5). High rates of poverty paired with a rising cost of living in the Washington, D.C., area is a vicious combination for its poorest residents. Some end up on the street after getting evicted; others while escaping domestic abuse. The film touches on these issues and how these women persevered. Recent developments at the Kennedy Center put their performance in How I Got Over in a new light. President Donald Trump has become the Center's chair and installed political appointees in key leadership positions. Because of the stark change in leadership, high profile shows like Hamilton have canceled their performances. In turn, Trump this week criticized the Center's past programming as "woke," and vowed to overhaul it. Although he did not name The Theatre Lab's Life Stories Program, it puts into question whether a play like theirs could be performed at the Kennedy Center today. The free film starts at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 24 at the New Deal Café in Roosevelt Center. To watch via Zoom, pre-register at tinyurl.com/ReelMealMar2025.



PHOTO BY MARY MURCHISON-EDWARDS

A red-tailed hawk observes the scene from above Greenbelt Road.

Open Registration



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- Promote Physical and Mental Wellness
- Learn Physical Strength, Proper Form And Recovery

Location:

Springhill Lake Recreation Center
6101 Cherrywood Lane,
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Registration:

For more information email fjones@greenbeltnmd.gov or to register online:
<https://www.greenbeltnmd.gov/government/recreation-parks/virtual-recreation-center/spring-activity-guide>

Date:

March 25th -May 20th, 2025
No class on April 15th





GREENBELT
RECREATION

Apr • Fitness • Friendship

This program is being supported by a grant from the Greenbelt Community Foundation

Local Legionnaire Darnell Plunges Into Icy Bay for Special Olympics

by Butch Hicks

Last month, Jerry Darnell, a member of Greenbelt American Legion Post 136 and Sons of The American Legion (SAL) Southern Maryland Regional Commander, led a contingent of swimmers into the cold waters of Chesapeake Bay. They were among the thousands who participated in the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser for the Special Olympics. Darnell said temperatures were in the 30s with an even colder wind chill.

“Many of us were hesitant, but we plunged into the cold water anyway, motivated by the event’s purpose of raising money for the Maryland Special Olympics.”

Between gasps of breath acknowledging how cold they were, some swimmers declared the fundraising purpose kept them going. The ongoing tally of accumulated funds encouraged the cold-plungers’ excitement and gratitude for generous donations. Darnell said the Maryland SAL detachment donated \$15,000 and the Auxiliary Unit 136 and SAL Squadron 136 donated \$5,000 each toward the more than \$3 million raised. “SAL Squadron 136 and Auxiliary Unit 136 proudly support the Special Olympics,” said Darnell. “The Special Olympics Maryland



PHOTO COURTESY JERRY DARNELL

Jerry Darnell, right, leads a contingent of swimmers into the cold waters of Chesapeake Bay for the Maryland State Police's Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser for the Special Olympics.

works to provide sports opportunities for athletes, no matter their ability level.”

Darnell said helping the Special Olympics is an opportunity to expand the SAL’s community assistance activities. “It joins our continuum of local support activities such as funding efforts for the Greenbelt Little League baseball team, the Giants. We also provide leadership events and travel assistance for Greenbelt Cub Scout Pack 202 associated with the Greenbelt Community Church. We appreciate statewide opportunities to assist various causes,” said Darnell. “But Post 136 family always remembers its Greenbelt roots when opportunities arise to assist local community needs.”



Artist Studio Space Available: Apply in April

Greenbelt Recreation is now accepting applications for studio space at the Community Center through the city’s Artist in Residence Program. New residencies will begin in July. This opportunity is open to fine artists and artisans ages 18 and up, including both residents and nonresidents of Greenbelt. The program is best suited for artists who are interested in being part of a professional, creative community and who are interested in engaging members of the general public through teaching, studio open houses and service activities. No vacancies are anticipated, but a limited number of incumbents reapply to the program annually and new applicants are also invited to apply for consideration. Learn more at bit.ly/3R2URY9. Contact staff at 240-542-2057 by Tuesday, April 1 to schedule a tour (required) and apply by Wednesday, April 9.

Free Tech Support

Marylanders Online is currently offering free one-on-one tech support in English and Spanish for Maryland residents. Technicians can help with devices, including software and hardware, internet service and digital skill classes. Anyone can sign up for an online or in-person session online at marylandersonline.umd.edu/get-help/schedule-appointment or call 301-405-9810 or toll-free 1-866-206-9467. In-person meetings are held at 8400 Baltimore Avenue, Suite 104, College Park. Online appointments are held on Google Meet.

The Bus

Seniors and Customers with Disabilities **RIDE FREE**

Repair Café Offers Fixes

by Amy Hansen

Computers, lamps, headphones, heaters, bikes and more. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 1, 15 volunteers at the Repair Café met with more than 50 people and were able to repair 29 of the 34 items that needed work.

The free event took place in the Greenbelt Makerspace’s Tool Lending Library, which is in the basement of Roosevelt Center’s Granite Building. The Tool Lending Library has recently taken over another office in the Granite Building, providing a bit more space for repairs and classes.

And at times on Saturday, the Repair Café needed all the space it could find. While Bob Bourg fixed a child’s bike at the entrance to the building, John Martin worked with Laura Lising on a space heater and Tony Lieuallen helped Anatol Sucher with his wooden desk chair. Meanwhile, Jon Bell looked at a

pair of broken headphones, while others addressed lamps and computers, even moving upstairs to the building’s conference room.

One of the reasons for the Café’s success was the funds provided by two Cassels grants, which are administered by the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket. Greenbelt Makerspace used the money to buy more tools and parts including a bike repair kit, furniture parts and lamp sockets, items that had been in high demand during other Repair Cafés, according to Robert Candey, who coordinates the Repair Café and is on the board for the Tool Lending Library.

Candey and other volunteers aim to hold Repair Cafés quarterly, and have held over 30 since 2014. The event is announced several weeks in advance in the News Review and on the Makerspace website at GreenbeltMakers.org.



PHOTO BY AMY HANSEN

Anatol Sucher, left, works with Tony Lieuallen to repair Sucher’s chair.



CARES Needs Fund Donations

The Greenbelt Emergency Assistance Fund continues to be that safety net for Greenbelters in a financial crisis whatever the reason. Those who are able can help by donating to the fund.

Make checks out to Greenbelt CARES, write Emergency Assistance Fund in the memo space and mail to Greenbelt CARES, 25 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 (or place in the secure drop box at that address). Or, go to GreenbeltMD.gov, click Pay Online at the top of the page and choose Charitable Donations. Complete the form, indicating the donation is for the Emergency Assistance Fund, and click submit; the payment page then will come up with a form to enter credit card or PayPal information.

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FISH FRIDAYS? VICTOR HAS A VARIETY OF SEAFOOD OPTIONS!

Greenbelt Women

Gizelle Alvarez, Greenbelt’s First Constituent Services Coordinator

by Joan Estenson

Gizelle Alvarez has no predecessor, letting her shape her new job as Greenbelt’s first constituent services coordinator any way she believes will help residents. Being a Maryland native fluent in Spanish will help her serve the city’s diverse population.

She has been here two months, starting one week before Donald Trump was sworn in for his second term, and as she says, “I had one week of peace.” Helping federal employees and contractors and those in danger of deportation have been among the first projects she worked on with other city staff.

These issues aside, many people think the federal government is most important, Alvarez said, but local government has the most impact on residents, giving property taxes as one example.

As she sees her job, some things she will solve herself or delegate to another city staff member. But if many people are discussing something, “I want to build a foundation to solve the broader issue,” she said. To do that she believes putting together town halls is a good way to help people get the information they need. The first one she put together, about the rising cost of utilities, included representatives from utility companies but was not as well attended by residents as she had hoped (see the February 20 issue, page 1). The next one, to be held on March 27 at 7 p.m., will be on tenant rights.

Alvarez’s favorite classes in school were social studies and history, leading to an interest in public policy. She earned a B.A. in public policy from the Univer-



New Constituent Services Coordinator Gizelle Alvarez

sity of Maryland after transferring from American University during Covid, which shifted her focus to looking at disparities within communities. She was interested in international relations and considered going to work for USAID, but decided she could make a more lasting change in local communities.

At UMD she and three other Latinx students and the only Latina professor started a Latinx association in the School of Public Policy, which looked first at policies within the school. The organization has since grown and become a more formal organization, showing the need for it.

One of her jobs before coming to Greenbelt was in Prince George’s County’s Office of Management and Budget, where she contributed to policy research and data analysis. While she learned from that job, she had little op-

portunity to see and engage with residents, something she will have plenty of in her new job.

Alvarez likes the work environment here, she says, with the weekly staff meetings and monthly check-ins. “You always have an opportunity to speak your mind,” she said.

She put together a Constituent Services Feedback Survey to help determine community concerns and set expectations. The survey is now closed but for more information you can contact Alvarez at galvarez@greenbeltmd.gov or 240-542-2020.

Alvarez figures she will go to graduate school at some point. She loves learning and never stops. She said, “No one can take your education away from you, and you never know where you will use those skills.”

PHOTO BY JOAN ESTENSON

Greenbelters Take First Place In Artistic Swim Competition

by Kim Rush Lynch

On February 16, three young Greenbelt swimmers gathered at 6:30 a.m. to “Knox” their hair for the Potomac Valley Pearls annual Have A Heart Invitational artistic swimming competition held at Fairland Aquatic Center in Laurel. Emmeline Bedford-Dillow, McKenna Lynch and Rose Platt sat still as their mothers nervously applied the goopy gold standard of gelatin to their tightly pulled-back hair and tidy buns in preparation for their first artistic swimming competition.

The girls attended the Pearl for a Day clinic early last October and were hooked. They participated in an introductory class last fall and learned artistic maneuvers like the oyster, blossom and sailboat. After learning a few of these basics, they were invited to join the team at the end of December. Despite snow interruptions, the new Pearls spent January and early February learning and improving their sculls, boosts, thrusts, splits and other challenging techniques. They were excited to compete in their first invitational against “synchro” teams ranging from Hampton, Va., to Pittsburgh, Pa. The invitational included a variety of events with choreographed routines for teams, duets, trios, solos and combos.

The Greenbelt contingent represented the Pearls in the novice team and novice trio events for the 9-10 age group and were judged on elements such as execution, synchronization, difficulty and artistic impression. The novice Pearls’ hard work paid off. Emmeline, McKenna and Rose brought home two first-place medals each. While they were the only novice team in their age group to participate in those events, showing up and giving their all at their first meet paid off. The smiles radiating from this adorable trio felt like an Olympic win.

The trio will compete this Sunday, March 23, in the Capital Classic in Manassas, Va.

Founded in 1993, the Potomac Valley Pearls is an artistic swimming club (formerly known as synchronized swimming) that competes in local, regional and national competitions. The club is a supportive environment to learn an acrobatic water sport that builds strength, agility and confidence in young women and men. Children interested in learning more about artistic swimming might consider joining Pearl for a Day this October. Stay tuned to the Pearls’ Facebook and Instagram pages for the announcement.



From left, McKenna Lynch, Rose Platt and Emmeline Bedford-Dillow attend the artistic swim meet on February 16.



From left, McKenna Lynch, Emmeline Bedford-Dillow and Rose Platt show off their gold medals.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Postcard Writing at the New Deal



Rob Wald, Communications Director for Third Act Maryland, welcomes attendees to the postcard-writing party.



Katrina Boverman attends the Third Act Maryland event.

- Photos by Carol Griffith

Third Act Maryland held its first event in Greenbelt on Tuesday, March 18 – a postcard-writing party intended to inform Wisconsin voters of the importance of the upcoming election of a state Supreme Court justice who will determine the court’s balance of power. About 35 people attended the event at the New Deal Café. Third Act, an effort begun by climate activist Bill McKibben, is a nationwide organization of elders working to protect the environment and strengthen democracy for the next generations.



UNSOLVED continued from page 1

common with Ferguson, started publishing podcasts about the case a year ago under the name Crime Crashers on YouTube. Additionally, The Raider Review and News Review covered the case from the start. Epstein collected articles and information about her case and created a website justiceforjulie.wordpress.com.

Details have accumulated over time. Three individuals seen in the red car had been in the parking lot about two hours before the estimated time of the abduction. Meetre reports that the occupants were drug dealers in the area, already known to Julie. One was a man known for his “meticulous grooming” and multicolored silk shirts, another was a light-skinned Black man wearing a hoodie and the last was a Black woman. The two men were known associates, and the car may have been stolen.

Meetre’s research led to further investigation and DNA testing of the suspects. Meetre believes that more details publicized earlier would have helped with the case, but police did not adequately push the information out. “They have DNA evidence that hasn’t been moved forward the way it should, they have multiple people still on their list that they should be bringing in for questioning that they haven’t,” she said. “They didn’t provide this really important information from day one about people seen with her, they never revisited the witness who saw them, ... they didn’t do a composite sketch,

they took five years to listen to our story and they’re still taking a long long long time to get it done.”

Two other theories about this case have multiple inconsistencies and insufficient connection to the crime. Two suspects, Noel Smith and Doug DeSilva, are both now incarcerated for other separate crimes. Smith, incarcerated for murder, had known Julie before her death; she had reportedly rejected his romantic advances. Doug DeSilva was also questioned by Greenbelt police about this case after being arrested for a crime in another state.

The murder was a shock to the community, because violent crime was uncommon in Greenbelt. Many students sought counseling afterward and a vigil was held on the Roosevelt football field. The police on the case were struggling to find clues, as no cameras had been in place and a complete autopsy had not yet been revealed. Several of her friends began seeking answers.

“We were kids when it happened in high school and I knew that when I became an adult and I had some resources or some sense of authority that I would want to do something,”



The school newspaper from May 1995 with the story of Ferguson's murder

said Epstein. “So I made a promise to her after she died that I would do something and whoever did it would not get away with it.”

Ferguson’s friends are still looking for answers in this still open and active case. A \$25,000 reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of the killers. Any information, no matter how small, may help solve this crime. Contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS.

Yadira Reyes and Masoma Ngupkam are students at ERHS, writing for the Raider Review, where this article first appeared.

Thoughts on Grounding Oneself In Difficult Times Like These

by Susan Taylor

“May you live in interesting times,” is thought to be a curse. That these are interesting times is an understatement. Mutual aid asks us to share with and care for one another. But first we need to care for ourselves. Here are some suggestions for refreshing your brain.

Neuroscience and You

Human brains are hardwired for survival. Attending to potential dangers is adaptive. Yet, living within a 24/7 news cycle and social media landscape is exhausting. Does our brain wait to be certain that what we see on the ground is a stick or a snake? Nope. It signals us to run away now and figure it out later. One way to stay healthy in fearful times is to use the senses – hearing, scent, sight, taste, touch and memory – to ground yourself.

Sensory Grounding

The sensory method is always

available. Stimuli are around us always.

Sit quietly for a moment or go outside for a walk. How many layers of sounds are present? Does the aroma of morning coffee fill your nostrils? What do you see that is green? How many shades of green can you see? How does the air feel on your skin right now? Where are your feet? Are they touching the ground? Are they warm or cool? Relaxed or curled? What textures are in this bite of toast with jam? Is sweet present? Savory?

Remember What Is Loved

Another method involves taking a moment to list what you love. Bring those objects, ideas and images to life inside your imagination. They will always be there to ground you.

Susan Taylor is a licensed clinical social worker – certified (LCSW-C).



Community Orchestra Welcomes Musicians

Greenbelt Community Orchestra rehearses on Thursday evenings at the Community Center and welcomes new members, especially string players and low brass. For more information, visit GreenbeltOrchestra.org.



Toastmasters Meet

The Greenbelt Toastmasters Club invites all to join them online every first, third and fifth Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The club provides a fun and friendly environment for anyone interested in improving their public speaking and leadership skills. Learn more at greenbelt.toastmastersclubs.org.



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Police Blotter

Incidents reported here occurred March 10-16, 2025. Readers are encouraged to contact the police if they have information that may aid in an enquiry. Call the non-emergency number 301-474-7200 or email pd@greenbeltmd.gov. Times provided are when the incidents were reported.

Incident Summary

Greenbelt Police reported two deaths, one involving suicide; two domestic incidents; and four mental health diversions. Two juvenile missing person cases were resolved.

Robbery

On March 13 at 11:35 p.m. near 550 Crescent Road, a man was waiting to meet up with some women and said he had been attacked by a man who stole his shoes, wallet and iPhone.

On March 14 at 3:13 p.m. near 5717 Greenbelt Metro Road, a man pointed a gun at three other men. He took shoes from one of the men and ran. The three men then chased him and fought him to get the shoes back. They stated later they knew it was only a BB gun.

Armed Person

On March 14 at 10:09 p.m. near 5810 Greenbelt Road, a man sitting at the bar displayed a firearm, and security asked him to leave the restaurant. He was gone when police arrived.

Assault

On March 13 at 11:08 a.m. near 8301 Miner Street, a man had a party at his residence. During the party, a man said something the host did not like and the man was asked to leave. The man would not leave and proceeded to punch the host several times. Officers know who the man is and are seeking a warrant.

Premise Check

On March 12 at 4:23 p.m. near 5911 Cherrywood Lane, officers checking a vacant apartment found a loaded firearm, several items used in theft from vehicles, multiple cellphones, iPads, cloth-

ing with store tags still attached, vehicle keys and out-of-state license plates.

Fraud

On March 13 near 7595 Greenbelt Road, the Greenbelt Police Department was notified by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office in Tampa, Fla., of several fraudulent transactions regarding a bank account in the Greenbelt area.

Shoplifting

On March 10 at 9:44 a.m. near 5910 Greenbelt Road, a man wearing a gray hoodie went behind the counter, grabbed several items and left without paying.

On March 11 at 1:04 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, someone concealed items in a plastic bag and left the store.

On March 13 at 2:05 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a man and woman walked past all points of sale, stealing items.

Trespassing

On March 11 at 12:07 p.m. near 6440 Cherrywood Lane, an evicted woman moved her belongings back into the apartment. She was arrested and transported to the Upper Marlboro Department of Corrections. Her dog was impounded at Prince George's County Animal Control.

On March 15 at 5:56 a.m. near 6600 Capitol Drive, a disorderly man was creating a disturbance inside the store. Store employees asked him to leave and he refused. Officers also asked him to leave, and he refused multiple times. He was then arrested and released on a criminal citation.

Warrant Service

On March 12 at 1:54 p.m. near 6000 Greenbelt Road, a

woman who'd been banned was seen inside the mall. Officers confirmed that she was still banned; she was arrested on a warrant and taken to the Department of Corrections.

Vehicle Crimes Stolen Vehicles

On March 10 near 6111 Breezewood Court, a 2009 Ford F150 was reported stolen, but it had been impounded for being illegally parked.

On March 15 near 120 Westway, a tan 2007 Chevrolet Suburban (Md. FP4597) was reported stolen.

Attempted Theft of Vehicles

On March 14 near 7929 Mandan Road, a 2015 Lexus RC-F had a window broken and ignition damage.

On March 16 at 00:47 a.m. near 9308 Edmonston Road, a 2017 Hyundai Sonata had window and ignition damage, with the steering wheel column taken completely off.

Stolen Vehicle Recovered

On March 16 near 6100 Springhill Terrace, officers found a 2012 Hyundai Sonata with a window broken and the ignition and steering column removed. The vehicle was left running and unoccupied.

Theft from Auto

On March 14 two vehicles were broken into and items stolen: near 7919 Mandan Road, a 2015 Honda Accord; and near 7480 Greenway Center Drive, a 2011 Chevy Suburban.

Vandalism to Auto

On March 16 near 9300 Edmonston Road, a 2018 Hyundai Accent had a window broken.

Construction On Cherrywood Lane

On Tuesday, March 18 construction began on Cherrywood Lane from Greenbelt Road to Breezewood Drive. The roadworks are anticipated to last three weeks, depending on weather, and will include concrete works, milling, base repair, asphalt overlay, striping and road markings.

Residents are warned to anticipate delays in the area during this time.



PHOTO BY ERICA JOHNS

Two speed bumps were installed between 12 and 16 Courts Ridge Road by Public Works on March 4.

Volunteers Needed For Tool Library

The Greenbelt Makerspace seeks volunteers to staff the tool library and organize classes and other events. People are asking for more open hours. Help is needed for the tool library to expand. Sign up for shifts at signup.com/go/UNkLnqk or email us at staff@make125.org if interested in other times or jobs.

The Greenbelt Makerspace is accessed via the exterior stairs on the west side of the Granite Building at 115 Centerway.

GIVES Needs Drivers

The Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service (GIVES) is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that helps adult Greenbelt residents with transportation and friendly visits, along with other services. More drivers are urgently needed to meet the increase in requests for services. To be a driver for GIVES, one needs to be a resident of Greenbelt, be a member of GIVES, have a valid Maryland license and insurance, and obtain a free background check. Membership is free. For information or an application, call 301-507-6580 or visit givesgreenbelt.org.

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE FAMILY COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE
DOCKET NO.: 2025-DR-23-0001
NOTICE OF ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS
TO THE DEFENDANT: CARLOS RUIZ, ALLEGED BIRTH FATHER AND JOHN DOE BIRTH FATHER
YOU ARE HEREBY GIVEN THE FOLLOWING NOTICE:

1. That an adoption proceeding was filed in the Family Court of Greenville County on January 2, 2025, and in this Complaint, you are alleged to be the father of a Hispanic, female child born in Silver Springs, Marland, on December 28, 2024; and you John Doe are alleged to be the father of a Hispanic, female child born in Silver Springs, Marland, on December 28, 2024. 2. That the Plaintiffs in the above captioned Notice are not named for the purpose of confidentiality; however, the Court knows the true identity of the Plaintiffs and in responding to this notice, you are required to use the caption and the number 2025-DR-23-0001. 3. That if Notice to Contest, Intervene or otherwise Respond is filed by you with the Court within thirty (30) days of the receipt of this Notice of Adoption Proceedings, you will be given an opportunity to appear and be heard on the merits of the adoption. To file notice to Contest, Intervene or otherwise Respond in this action, you must notify the above named Court at Greenville County Courthouse, Clerk of Court Greenville County Family Court, 350 Halton Road, Greenville, South Carolina, 29607 in writing of your intention to Contest, Intervene or otherwise Respond. The above named Court must be informed of your current address and any changes of your address during the adoption proceedings. 4. That your failure to respond within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Notice of Adoption Proceedings constitutes your consent to the adoption and forfeiture of all of your rights and obligations to the above identified child. It is further alleged that your consent to this adoption is not required under S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-310 and that your parental rights should be terminated pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-7-2570 (7). This notice is given pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 63-9-730 (E). Raymond W. Godwin, Esq. (SC Bar #2162) PO Box 354, Greenville, SC 29602 PH (864) 241-2883 FAX: (864) 255-4342
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFFS
Date: March 6, 2025



PHOTO BY GREG FISANICH

Pileated woodpecker



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Français, s'il vous plaît: French at the Café

A group of people interested in speaking French meets at the New Deal Café every Thursday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. All ages, all levels of fluency are welcome.

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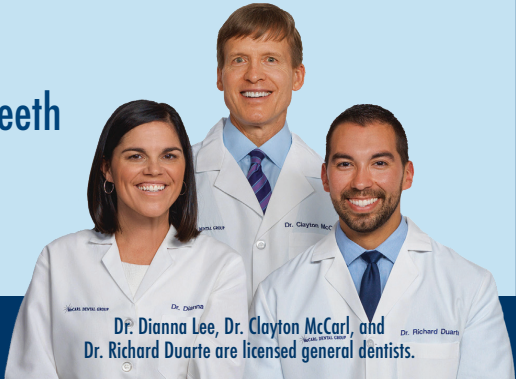
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Golden Age Club

The next meeting of the Golden Age Club is on March 26, when Bingo will be the featured program. The Club meets most Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Room 201 of the Community Center. The club does not meet when inclement weather delays or closes the Prince George’s County schools. Annual dues are due.

The Golden Age Club Anniversary Luncheon will be held on April 16 at the Holiday Inn College Park, 10000 Baltimore Avenue, starting at noon. There will be entertainment by the musicians of TGIF group, playing favorites from the 1950s and beyond. For more information, call Suzanne Sligh at 301-477-3077.

Make a Difference Now: Hunger Close to Home

The community coming together can stamp out Greenbelt hunger, even during these most uncertain times. The impact of a fully stocked pantry is profound. Keeping the shelves stocked at the Greenbelt Interfaith Leadership Association food pantry at St. Hugh’s, which were emptied during the holidays, takes a community effort. PORCH will pick up nonperishable food placed on porches in March as scheduled below.

Sunday, March 23 – by 5 p.m. for 11 Court Ridge Road, 14 and 16 Courts Ridge Road, 8 and 10 Courts Southway and Lakeside Drive.

Weekly Programs Held at The SPACE

Artrepreneurship, meets Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 5 to 7 p.m. Four-week program.

Sundays, Sewing Classes, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Open to all skill levels. A limited number of sewing machines is available; participants can also bring their own.

Wednesdays, Beginners Music Classes in Ukulele and Keyboards, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fridays (1st and 3rd of the month), Free Art for All Game Night, 5 to 7 p.m. Play for fun and gear up for monthly tournaments.

Saturdays, Yoga with René Hood, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; Expressive Art Workshops, 2 to 4 p.m. Space Family Band Jam Session, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Rainbow Joe is back. Bring an instrument or borrow one from The SPACE and jump into the jam.

All classes are not only enriching but also free and open to the public. The program extends a warm welcome for donations to support its community initiatives.

The SPACE is located upstairs in the former Big Lots space at Beltway Plaza, 6000 Greenbelt Road. Details on upcoming events can be seen on Instagram or Facebook @TheSPACEFreeArtForAll. For details call 240-244-6115.



Every Story Tells a Picture. Take event photos for us.

www.greenbeltnewsreview.com

FBI continued from page 1

access roads and consulting with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). However, money for construction has not been set aside and is not part of the continuing resolution passed by Congress last week.

Speaking with the News Review on Monday, City Manager Josué Salmerón said the city will continue its work on the project until the General Services Administration (GSA) tells them otherwise. Stephen Ehikian, a technology, artificial intelligence and software entrepreneur, was appointed as acting administrator and deputy administrator of the GSA by Trump in January. He’s unlikely to dispute Trump’s decision.

Governor’s Outcry

The State of Maryland, whose leaders worked for over a decade to secure the winning bid for the site, seems poised to fight Trump’s decision. Over the weekend, Governor Wes Moore said he found out about Trump’s statement from the news rather than the White House, demonstrating the lack of partnership, and called it a “direct attack on law enforcement” and on the FBI. In a social media post on Sunday, Moore wrote: “This is a direct assault on the brave men and women of the FBI, full stop. They deserve a modern, consolidated HQ that meets their public safety and national security mission. It’s why Greenbelt was chosen – and that’s not a political position, it’s a fact.”

Impact

The overruling of that decision would come at a particularly bad time for the region as Maryland faces an over \$3 billion deficit and is in need of economic development. Moore has estimated the new headquarters would bring some 7,500 jobs to the region and generate revenue of over \$4 billion. Prince George’s County is facing a projected deficit of more than \$170 million and the City of Greenbelt has been making difficult decisions about cuts in efforts to balance its own budget. Greenbelt, the county and the state have also been significantly impacted by federal job losses in recent weeks. According to U.S. Census Bureau data 17.3 percent of Prince George’s County residents and more than 14 percent of Greenbelt’s residents are federal workers; still more are federal contractors.

A History of Opposition

On Friday, Trump said a “big” new FBI headquarters will be built in Washington, D.C., and should be located close to the Department of Justice. Most will not be surprised by Trump’s promise to “not ... let that (move to Maryland) happen,” and many foresaw his election as the death knell for the FBI headquarters in Greenbelt, given his history of opposing its relocation from Washington, D.C. In 2017 Trump

similarly announced the headquarters would stay in Washington, D.C., and be rebuilt downtown.

Following the announcement in 2023 that the headquarters would come to Greenbelt, the selection process was met with pushback from then-FBI Director Christopher Wray and Virginia leaders. They claimed the GSA’s selection process was “fouled by political considerations and alleged impropriety,” and requested an immediate investigation (see the December 6, 2023, issue of the News Review). After nearly a year of silence, GSA’s report, released last month, found the selection process, though flawed, was not marred by a conflict of interest. Former GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan stated none of the issues raised “undermine the overall integrity of the process.” The report dismissed allegations that former GSA official Nina Albert had improperly influenced the decision.

GSA Report on Site

After more than a decade of deliberation, the GSA announced in November 2023 that Greenbelt would be the new home of the FBI headquarters, selecting the site over Springfield, Va., and Landover, Md. (see the November 16, 2023 issue.) The decision followed years of advocacy from Maryland officials, who argued that Greenbelt’s proximity to public transit, cost-effectiveness and equity considerations made it the best choice.

On Tuesday Greenbelt City Council and the City Manager issued the following statement: “The City of Greenbelt fully supports the decision to relocate the FBI headquarters to our community. As emphasized by Governor Moore, Senator Van Hollen and the entire Congressional delegation, Greenbelt offers the most secure, build-ready and cost-effective site to meet the FBI’s mission and operational needs. Changing the GSA’s thoroughly vetted decision again will further compromise national security and delay vital progress. We are committed to keeping Greenbelt and Prince George’s County as the site for this essential facility and will continue working with our Team Maryland colleagues to ensure the FBI has the best location and the best use of taxpayer resources.”

Diya Shah is a student at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism interning with the News Review.

CONDOS continued from page 1

65 and 70 decibels. The closest buildings now are perpendicular to the road, so the buildings’ short ends face the road to reduce exposure to noise. Recreational areas (including a pickleball court) will be furthest from the road.

The Buildings

Each building has 24 apartments (96 altogether), with one unit set aside at the request of council to facilitate engagement with the wider community (the city has no formal power over zoning but developers are often willing to make concessions). There are four floor plans (and their mirror images) that depend on location in the building – for example, corner or middle – but all have two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a balcony.

The site is being developed not to the provisions of the current site zoning (from April 1, 2022), but under the provisions of the pre-2022 ordinance (which the rules allow). This enables the property to have the slightly higher-than-normal density of apartments per acre that was allowed for housing for the elderly or disabled under the pre-2022 rules. The normal number of such units allowed would be 90.

Parking and Landscaping

The site will have a total of 119 parking spaces, most on the smaller side, at 9’x18’ (often 9.5’ x 19’/20’); eight are handicapped-accessible (larger) spaces, 111 are regular and two are electric-charging spaces. The building description notes that these smaller-than-usual parking spaces provide “more room for the older residents than utilizing compact

vehicle spaces,” but perhaps more importantly to the developer, “ensure the minimum green area requirements are satisfied.”

Preliminary landscaping diagrams show plantings that will encapsulate and shield the site from nearby homes and apartments, with significant attention to the border along Greenbelt Road.

Conforming to Zoning

The site is subject to R-18 zoning and the justification document walks through the ordinance’s criteria showing how the development meets each of them. These include requirements for attractive buildings and landscaping, suitable amenities, grading, services, public spaces and parking/circulation. The R-18 zoning promotes neighborhood preservation, the provision of age-restricted housing and owned rather than rented properties. It promotes diversity of available housing types and identifies characteristics associated with the ability of seniors to “age in place.”

Ownership and Marketing


The buildings will be sold unit by unit as condominiums with a governing board of residents and a resident management company to provide day-to-day services to the apartments. Expected completion dates and pricing are not yet available.

Detailed submissions to the city from the owners/builders can be seen online at greenbeltmd.gov/government/planning-community-development-proposals/currently-under-review/7010-greenbelt-road.



Construction equipment on the move at the site for condos for age 55+ on Greenbelt Road, near the Armory

PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE



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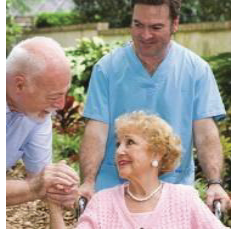
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School News

Nursery School Children Visit GATe to Record Their Song

On January 28, students from Greenbelt Nursery School visited Greenbelt Access Television (GATe) to record a song about snowmen. The class of preschoolers ranged in age from 3 to 5 and all were excited to visit the studio and see the lights and camera. They were welcomed by GATe’s Executive Director Sheila Tilert and Animation Instructor George Kochell.

The recording will be viewable on GATe’s website and YouTube channel, Verizon Fios 19 and Comcast 77.




Students from Greenbelt Nursery School pay a visit to Greenbelt Access Television.

- Photos by Anna Bedford-Dillow



Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!



The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Annual Talent Show Features Roosevelt Students’ Top Acts

by Dan Celdran

Students from the French Honor Society at Eleanor Roosevelt High School presented Roosevelt’s Got Talent Show to a packed auditorium of mostly students and their families on Friday, January 24.

Sponsored by Anna Maria Cherubin and Laurent Rigal, the event was hosted by students who kept the audience engaged with their energy and banter.

The first round consisted of 11 varied acts: a keyboardist, vocalists, pianists, a rock group, dancers and a saxophonist. They performed to an appreciative audience who were clapping and cheering along. What talent these students have.

During intermission, the audi-

ence was treated to a performance by the Lady Raiders and Dem’ Raider Boyz step teams.

The acts were judged by the principal, music teacher, guidance counselor and other staff. The top five performers chosen by the judges performed their second acts.

Proceeds from the talent show will be donated to Child-Fund, a nonprofit organization that supports poor children and their families in French-speaking African countries such as Senegal and Guinea.

A fun time for the whole family. Join us next year!

Dan Celdran is mom to a sophomore at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.

Greenbelt Middle School Finalists Compete in National Science Bowl

The team from Greenbelt Middle School, reigning Prince George’s County Public Schools Middle School Science Bowl champion, won the regional competition for the 2025 National Science Bowl (NSB) in January and will compete in the 35th annual NSB National Finals this spring. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sponsors the NSB.

Making the announcement, Harriet Kung, acting director of the DOE Office of Science, said, “I am honored to congratulate the Greenbelt Middle School team as they advance to the National Finals. Continue to believe in yourselves and your knowledge as you compete for the title of champion. Good luck!”

The NSB brings together thousands of middle and high school students from across the country to compete in a fast-

paced verbal forum to solve technical problems and answer questions. Middle school questions are in life science, physical science, earth and space science, energy and mathematics.

The winning team from each of the 46 middle- and 64 high-school regionals will compete in the National Finals, at the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase from April 24 to 28.

The top two middle and high school teams in the National Finals will win \$5,000 for their schools’ math and science departments. Other schools placed in the top 16 will win \$1,000 for their schools’ science departments. For more information, email Nathan Clark, the NSB media manager at nathan.clark@science.doe.gov.

Kids Discovery Center At Patuxent Refuge

The Discovery Center at the Patuxent Research Refuge offers learning activities and crafts for children ages 3 to 10 with an adult, Wednesdays through Saturdays except on federal holidays. Sessions start at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. and noon, lasting 35 minutes. The March theme is Snails, Slugs and Worms.

Registration is strongly recommended. Call 301-497-5760. Visit fws.gov/refuge/patuxent-research/patuxent-visitor-center for more information.

Donate Sneakers For People in Need

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is collecting athletic shoes by partnering with GotSneakers. This sneaker recycling program helps to keep sneakers out of landfills, where they have harmful effects on the environment.

A donation box is located outside the Fellowship Center (the small building behind the church) for people to drop off sneakers at any time.



Writing Contest on Peace For Maryland Students

All Maryland middle school students are invited to enter a statewide writing contest focusing on the themes of peace and social justice. The contest, sponsored by Anne Arundel Peace Action, the Maryland Peace Action Education Fund, the Benjamin Peace Foundation and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Annapolis Friends Meeting, is open to all seventh and eighth grade students enrolled in public or private schools in Maryland and to home-schooled students corresponding to the same grade levels. This is the 26th year the contest has been conducted.


Four cash prizes will be awarded, for first through fourth place, and winners will be honored at a special ceremony, although attendance is not required to receive an award.

To enter, students must submit an entry of up to 1,200 words on this topic:

“Suppose a time machine existed that gave you the opportunity to meet with a figure from history who was prominent in promoting peace and social justice. Whom would you choose and why? Base your selection on something that you have read or watched and explain why that person has a special meaning for you. Drawing from your own experience, what questions would you ask them? How do you think your views, or even your life, might be changed as a result of this encounter?”

Entries must be accompanied by a separate cover sheet including the student’s name, address and phone number or e-mail address; school’s name, address and phone number; and the name of the teacher sponsor if applicable.

Entries and accompanying materials must be postmarked no later than May 31 and mailed to Fred B. Benjamin Peace Writing Contest, 310 Riverview Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403-3328.




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BOXED: \$10.90/column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$16.35). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads. Certs and Notarizations each \$10.
NEEDED: Please include name, phone number and address with ad copy. Ads not considered accepted until published.
DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).
ZELLE: The News Review is now accepting electronic payments through Zelle. Find out more at zellepay.com. Customers should direct their payments to business@greenbeltnewsreview.com.
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Three Franklin Park Apartments Catch Fire; Residents Rescued

by Anna Bedford-Dillow

At approximately 8:40 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, Greenbelt police officers discovered a fire active in three apartments within a multifamily building in the 6100 block of Breezewood Drive. Police were the first on the scene, joined by Berwyn Heights Police Department, and firefighters responded promptly to the two-alarm fire. The building was evacuated and, according to Prince George's Fire Department (PGFD), seven residents were rescued from their balconies. Two residents were transported to hospital to receive treatment for

non-life-threatening injuries. City Manager Josué Salmerón was at the scene Wednesday morning and said that fortunately there were no deaths or life-threatening injuries from the fire but the Red Cross was on scene treating residents for smoke inhalation. Salmerón said it was not yet clear how the fire began, determining that may take some time, and it was unknown how many apartments would be condemned. Franklin Park would be relocating impacted residents, said Salmerón.



Firefighters respond to a two-alarm fire involving three apartments in Franklin Park on Wednesday, March 19. Seven residents were rescued from balconies.

- Photos by Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department



An American toad (*Anaxyrus americanus*) in the North Woods, Greenbelt Forest Preserve

Quilts Across Maryland Hang at Courthouse

The 22nd exhibition of Quilts Across Maryland currently hangs at the Greenbelt Federal Courthouse on Cherrywood Lane through the end of April. The works demonstrate a wide range of styles and techniques that illustrate the versatility of the medium and the creativity of the artists.

Included are quilts by local artists Pat Scully of Greenbelt and Janet Freitag of Berwyn Heights. Others celebrate nature in various forms and commemorate Black History Month.



Woodland Melody by Pat Scully

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Tardy Gras at The SPACE Features Honk, S.I.T.Y. Stars

by Lesley Kash

Much better late than never, The SPACE hosted a Mardi Gras celebration on Saturday evening, March 8, featuring the sensational Greenbelt S.I.T.Y. Stars jump rope team accompanied by the eye- and ear-popping stylings of Greenbelt’s resident New Orleans party band, the Honk! Situation.

An indoor New Orleans-style street parade kicked off the festivities. The fabulously clad brass band led a dancing crowd through the maze of creation venues that is The SPACE Free Art for All, a big open clubhouse for making art, upstairs at Beltway Plaza.

The evening ramped up to

polished performances by S.I.T.Y. Stars, from the littles to the experts. After that exhibition of precision athletics, the Honk! Situation persuaded the crowd into a soul-train-ish jamboree, as the elegant S.I.T.Y. Stars, in cool-down mode, observed with skeptical amusement. And then the whole thing devolved into the flailing dance party one expects at any Situation instigated by Honk!

Shaymar Higgs, The SPACE’s creator and center of gravity, encouraged the happy crowd to support The SPACE and come back often.



Tardy Gras celebrants at The SPACE



S.I.T.Y. Stars perform at Tardy Gras.



Music from the Honk! Situation inspires dancers.



- Photos by Lesley Kash

Artful Afternoons, March 2 and 9

Two Artful Afternoons took place on Sunday, March 2 at the Community Center and on Sunday, March 9 at Springhill Lake

Recreation Center. Participants made animal ears, taking inspiration from Secret Circus, the Greenbelt Youth Musical, with

instructor Vanessa Zanin who was one of the costumers for the show.



Cleopatra Merritt shows off the Hello Kitty headband that she and her mother carefully crafted at the Artful Afternoon at Springhill Lake Recreation Center on Sunday, March 9.



Two participants deftly ply needles and thread.



A young artist wears her creation.



Artists of all ages gather at the gluing station on Sunday, March 2 at the Community Center.



Luna's grandparents help her show off her new mouse ears.



Sisters show off their finished headbands, a fox and an imaginary creature.

- Photos by Amanda Larsen

